

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A) (1)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

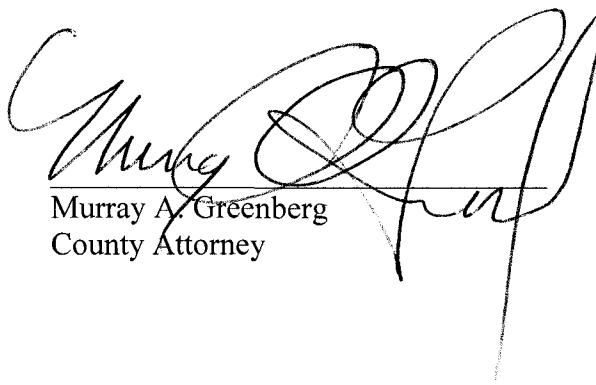
**DATE:** February 7, 2006

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Urging the  
Interim Government of  
Haiti to Immediately and  
Unconditionally Release  
the Reverend Gerard  
Jean-Juste From His Unjust  
Imprisonment and Urging  
The U.S. Government to  
Take Immediate Diplomatic  
Action to Attain Reverend  
Gerard Jean-Juste's  
Immediate Release

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of  
Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle.



Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

MAG/dc



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 7, 2006

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- ☒ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☒ No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)  
02-07-06

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF  
HAITI TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY  
RELEASE THE REVEREND GERARD JEAN-JUSTE FROM  
HIS UNJUST IMPRISONMENT AND URGING THE U.S.  
GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC  
ACTION TO ATTAIN REVEREND GERARD JEAN-JUSTE'S  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHEREAS**, the Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste is a widely-respected Catholic priest, a courageous advocate for peace and human rights in Haiti, and a hero to South Florida's Haitian refugee community; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jean-Juste was arrested on July 21, 2005, while attending the funeral for Jacques Roche, a Haitian journalist who was kidnapped, held for ransom and then murdered; and

**WHEREAS**, Haitian police claimed that Reverend Jean-Juste was arrested because a "public clamor" at the funeral accused him of murdering Jacques Roche, even though Reverend Jean-Juste was in Miami at the time of the murder; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jean-Juste now is being indefinitely detained in the Haitian National Penitentiary even though he has never been formally charged with any crime; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jean-Juste founded the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami and served as its executive director during the 1980's, where he worked to provide assistance to refugees who were fleeing persecution under the Duvalier regime; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jean-Juste returned to Haiti in 1991 and for the next ten years ministered to tens of thousands of Haitian families in Port-au-Prince and ran a soup kitchen for impoverished children in his parish until his imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, Amnesty International has determined that Reverend Jean-Juste currently is being detained solely because he has peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression, and is “a prisoner of conscience,” a classification usually reserved for the victims of the worst abuses; and

**WHEREAS**, grave concern exists over the welfare and safety of the Reverend Jean-Juste, who is now reportedly in poor health and being treated inhumanely; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board expresses its profound concern about the unjust imprisonment of Reverend Jean-Juste by the Interim Government of Haiti,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Interim Government of Haiti to immediately and unconditionally release the Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste from his unjust imprisonment.

Section 2. Urges the U.S. government to take immediate diplomatic action related to the Interim Government of Haiti to attain Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste’s release.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman  
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro  
Audrey M. Edmonson  
Sally A. Heyman  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Katy Sorenson  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Carlos A. Gimenez  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Natacha Seijas  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty

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